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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT North Korean Air Force Activity

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1. During 1948 and 1949, North Korean Air Force personnel were trained in a small number of training planes in North Korea or under Soviet auspices in the USSR. In either case their training was strictly supervised by Soviet instructors. When the air force occupied Kampo airfield at the beginning of the war in June 1950, they expected the Soviet Air Force to join them from North Korean bases and participate in the invasion. Not only did this air support not materialize, but the North Korean Ministry of National Defense, as soon as UN air operations commenced, ordered the withdrawal of all remaining North Korean planes to the northern zone, at the beginning of July.
2. The Ministry shortly afterwards sent approximately five hundred air cadets to the USSR to receive flight training. These students were in two groups, one scheduled for three months of instruction, the other for six months. Since the loss of all North Korean air bases, it is believed that these five hundred men will be sent to bases in Manchuria, from which they will participate in air raids on both North and South Korea.
3. The North Korean government in exile is expected to send more cadets to the USSR for flight training in order to build up a future air force.
4. Yi Kwon-sun (李健淳), the pilot who fled to the Republic of Korea during his training, was considered the best pilot at Kampo (甘浦) Airfield at Hamhung (247-32, 39-54). The ROK air force Captain PAREK, who deserted to North Korea and joined the northern armed forces, was not killed in North Korea as was rumored but was still active in September 1950.
5. A lieutenant and a captain of the North Korean air force who were in Pyongyang in September stated that they had been trained at the Chita Air Force Academy from March to September 1950.

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